

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: David J. Steele, et al.  
Filed: Herewith  
Entitled: EXPANDING WELLBORE JUNCTION  
Group Art Unit: 3672  
Examiner: H. Dang

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As listed on the accompanying form PTO-SB-08, the Applicants hereby call the examiner's attention to the following information of which they are aware, in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed references, other than U.S. patents, are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement.

U.S. Patents: 6,283,216    5,318,122    5,330,007    5,348,095    5,388,648

5,655,602    5,695,008    5,718,288    5,462,120    6,056,059    6,135,208

6,336,507    6,564,867

Published U.S. Applications: 2003/0141074    2003/0178204

2002/0023745    2002/0023753

PCT Applications: WO 99/13195    WO 99/04135    WO 02/29207

WO 02/29208

European Application: EP 0961007

Search Report for Counterpart UK Application: GB 0309628.6

Other Documents:

Tri-State General Catalog front cover, index page 2, page 52; dated 1980-81

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), which provides for the timely filing of an Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

Written notification that the listed documents have been considered in their entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



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Registration No. 38,310

Dated: Jan. 19, 2004

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(972) 516-0030

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

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on JANUARY 27, 2004

Sherri Shaffer

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	UNASSIGNED
		Filing Date	HEREWITH
		First Named Inventor	DAVID J. STEELE
		Group Art Unit	3672
		Examiner Name	H. DANG
Sheet	1	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	006073 U1D1 USA

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	UNASSIGNED
		Filing Date	HEREWITH
		First Named Inventor	DAVID J. STEELE
		Group Art Unit	3672
		Examiner Name	H. DANG
Sheet	2	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	006073 U1D1 USA

#### **OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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